

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for managing image files in a host system comprising:  
    identifying an image file stored in secondary storage for a host system; and  
    downgrading the identified image file.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
    storing the downgraded file in secondary storage; and  
    storing the identified image file in tertiary storage.
3. The method of claim 1, the downgrading further comprising:  
    performing a lossless compression on the identified image file.
4. The method of claim 1, the downgrading further comprising:  
    performing a lossy compression on the identified image file.
5. The method of claim 1, the downgrading further comprising:  
    reducing the resolution of the identified image file.
6. The method of claim 1, the downgrading further comprising:  
    reducing the bit size of the pixels in the identified image file.

7. The method of claim 1, the downgrading further comprising:  
converting a color image from one color format to another color format that requires less data to represent color in the identified image file.
8. The method of claim 7, the downgrading further comprising:  
converting a color image to a color palette version of the color image.
9. The method of claim 1, the downgrading further comprising:  
combining a plurality of downgrade operations to reduce the size of the identified image file.
10. The method of claim 1, the downgrading further comprising:  
retrieving a full resolution version of the identified image file from tertiary storage; and  
performing a downgrade operation on the full resolution version of the identified image file.
11. The method of claim 1, the image file identification including:  
comparing file metadata to a downgrade threshold.

12. The method of claim 11, the comparison including:

comparing file metadata to a file frequency threshold.

13. The method of claim 11, the comparison including:

comparing file metadata to a last access time threshold.

14. The method of claim 11, the comparison including:

comparing file metadata to a classification threshold.

15. A system for managing image files in a host system comprising:
- a file selector for identifying an image file stored in secondary storage for a host system; and
  - a file reducer for downgrading the identified image file.
16. The system of claim 15 further comprising:
- a file controller for storing the downgraded file in secondary storage and for storing the identified image file in tertiary storage.
17. The system of claim 15 wherein the file reducer includes a compressor for compressing the identified image file.
18. The system of claim 15 wherein the file reducer includes a color reducer for converting a color image from one color format to another color format that uses less data to represent color.
19. The system of claim 15 wherein the file reducer includes an image resolution reducer for reducing the resolution of the identified image file.
20. The system of claim 15 wherein the file reducer includes a bit depth reducer for reducing pixel bit size for pixels in the identified image file.